



ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

Claims Conference Holocaust Survivor Memoir Collection

Access to the print and/or digital copies of memoirs in this collection is made possible by USHMM on behalf of, and with the support of, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum respects the copyright and other intellectual property rights associated with the materials in its collection and makes good faith efforts to determine the copyright status of such materials. The Museum has a good faith belief that the materials in this collection may be made publicly available. The Museum welcomes additional information about copyright status. If you have additional information or concerns about the copyright ownership of materials in this collection, please contact the Museum's Library by phone at 202-479-9717 or by email at reference@ushmm.org.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

<https://archive.org/details/bib292865>

IN MEMORY OF THREE FIGHTERS

by Yehuda Merin and Israel Amir

ISRAEL

Just as the Warsaw ghetto fighters were the symbol of a hopeless battle fought for the honor of Israel, so were the Jewish partisans in the forest a symbol of rebellion against the Nazis and their collaborators, but with one difference. While the ghetto fighters knew that they had no chance of survival, the partisans fought not only for revenge but with the hope of seeing the downfall of their oppressors.

The price paid by the partisans was high. Not only were many of their comrades' lives lost, but they had the added responsibility of protecting the elderly, the infirm, the women and children in the family camp.

Testimonies and research show that the majority of the partisans and escapees to the forests of Wolyn and Polesia had come from small towns and villages bordering on those forests.

Unfortunately, the great and commendable role of the Jewish soldiers who fought in the armies of the "Allied" countries, especially in the Red Army, is barely mentioned.

We wish to commemorate 3 fighters who left us too young, all sons of Manyevitz and its surrounding villages.

Israel Avrach

An outstanding partisan who fought in the forests of Wolyn and Polesia. After the victory, he dedicated himself to the task of helping in the transfer of Holocaust survivors to Eretz Yisrael. He was hunted down, punished and imprisoned by those same Soviets who had praised his heroic exploits as a partisan.

Israel Porter (Puchtik) – Zilanka

One of the first fighters in "Kruk's" unit which was mostly made up of Jewish youngsters from Manyevitz, Lishnivka, Kamin-Kushirk and surrounding villages.

His entire family was wiped out by the Germans and their collaborators. Only his wife Fayge had managed to escape to the forest to join him.

Israel was chosen to be in charge of a family camp which numbered more than 150 souls. Within a short time it became a safe refuge for Jews who were hiding in the forests and a warm home for the fighters. Under the circumstances of the time, the family camp's contributions to the war against the Nazis were very great.

Mordechai Gaier

One of the founders and outstanding leaders of the Betar youth movement (right-wing Zionists) in the District of Wolyn.

He served as a soldier in the Red Army from 1941-1945, and survived the long, bloody route to Königsberg (Kaliningrad) where he was injured. After the war, he lived in Moscow. About the time of the Yom Kippur War, 1973, he realized the dream of his youth and made aliya with his wife Raya, their married daughter with her husband and 2 daughters.

The 7 years that he lived in Israel were the happiest of his life. His weak heart, however, was strained not only by the Holocaust and his daily mourning for his murdered parents, his brothers and many relatives, but by the political and social failures of Israel after the Yom Kippur War. He passed away during heart surgery.

Mordechai was by nature an optimist as expressed by his enthusiastic and dedicated activities in the community and his devotion to his family, many friends and acquaintances.

We pay homage to these 3 fighters. They are a symbol of the struggle and heroism of the Jewish people.

Translated from Yiddish to Hebrew
by Yehuda Merin

